

Synthesis, antimicrobial activity, and molecular docking study of 1,3-oxazines derivatives

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Abstract:

Computational methods have become integral in various stages of drug development, from initial hit discovery through lead optimization and beyond. Among these methods, molecular docking stands out as the most extensively employed technique in computer-aided drug design. In this study, the biological activity and molecular docking of the synthesized derivatives were investigated for the first time. An effective one-pot four-component method was studied for the synthesis of (5-hydroxy-2,4-diphenyl-2H-benzo[e][1,3]oxazin-3(4H)-yl)(phenyl)methanone derivatives by condensation reaction of Resorcinol with various aromatic aldehydes, carboxylic acids and ammonia. The synthesized compounds underwent testing for their antimicrobial effectiveness against both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria, and were benchmarked against standard drugs like ciprofloxacin. Results indicated that the synthesized compounds exhibited moderate to potent antibacterial properties, a finding further supported by molecular modeling conducted in this study, also, this series of synthesized derivatives of 1,3-oxazines have a significant effect on Gram-negative bacteria compared to Gram-positive bacteria. The computational findings suggested that inhibiting DNA gyrase could achieve antibacterial activity. DNA gyrase in bacteria is a well-established and validated target for developing new antibacterial compounds. Pharmacophore analysis revealed that features such as hydrogen bond acceptors, hydrogen bond donors, and hydrophobicity contribute to this inhibition. However, these computer simulations represent just the beginning stages for initiating new projects aimed at developing antimicrobial molecules.

Keywords: Molecular docking; 1,3-oxazines; Biological activity; Multicomponent reactions

Introduction

Multicomponent reactions (MCRs) are effective synthetic process that include three or more initiating substances reacting to create complex molecules in a one-pot approach with low synthetic cost, high efficiency, atom economy, minimum waste production, combinatorial surveying of structural variations and environmental friendliness [1–3]). Creating processes where multiple bonds are formed without isolating intermediates produces libraries of drug-like compounds [4–6]. Use of heterocyclic compounds containing nitrogen atom in MCRs has become an interesting subject due to their applications in medicinal chemistry as they are the basic skeleton of several bioactive compounds [7–9].

Heterocyclic nitrogenous compounds have appealed significant interest as a result of their biological and pharmacological activities compared with cephalexin and ciprofloxacin as they are biodegradable agrochemicals [10], antimicrobial [11], antifungal [12], antitumor [12],

anti-HIV [13], anticancer [14], analgesic [15] and anti-inflammatory properties potential inhibitors of human Chk1 kinase [16]. Most of mentioned conventional antibacterial agents require harsh reaction conditions, high cost with long reaction time and low selectivity. Furthermore, the misuse and overuse of antibiotics by the human has caused bacterial resistance which has become a severe public health problem, for which the discovery of antibiotics or the development of present drugs is a very challenging and important issue. Hence, research has been recently concentrated on developing new synthesized compounds acting through structural changes [17–24].

Molecular docking technology serves as the primary method in computer-aided drug design (CADD). As genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, and other omics technologies advance rapidly and integrate across disciplines, this technology plays a crucial role in exploring bioactive substances from marine organisms. It also aids in understanding their mechanisms of action for disease treatment, thereby enhancing the research cycle and

progress of marine natural product studies [25–27]. Molecular docking is an affordable, secure, and user-friendly technique that facilitates the exploration, interpretation, elucidation, and discovery of molecular characteristics using three-dimensional structures. Docking is employed to predict the structural interactions between multiple chemical molecules. This methodology finds application in computational chemistry, computer-aided biology, and molecular systems spanning from small molecules to large biomolecules and material assemblies. Molecular docking is a computational technique used to predict the structural arrangement of compounds formed by two or more different molecules. Its primary goal is to forecast the specific three-dimensional configurations. However, docking alone generates theoretical structural arrangements. Since its inception, applications of molecular docking in drug development have advanced considerably, initially devised to study how small and large compounds interact in molecular recognition processes [28–30].

In this study, in order to produce efficient heterocyclic compounds with biological features, (5-hydroxy-2,4-diphenyl-2H-benzo[e][1,3]oxazin-3(4H)-yl)(phenyl)methanone derivatives were synthesized through one-pot four components reaction between benzaldehyde and benzoic acid derivatives, resorcinol, and ammonia (Scheme 1) [31]. The (5-hydroxy-2,4-diphenyl-2H-benzo[e][1,3]oxazin-3(4H)-yl)(phenyl)methanone derivatives were synthesized under reflux conditions with short reaction time and the antibacterial act sing thermal conductivity. The molecular docking, gram-positive and gram-negative antibiotics of synthesis components were studied.

Results and discussion

The benzaldehyde derivatives with substitutions in the aromatic ring (i.e. H, 3-NO₂, 4-dimethylamino, 4-OMe and 4-OH groups) were reacted with benzoic acid derivatives with substitution in the aromatic ring (i.e. 4-OH and H) in presence of resorcinol and ammonia under reflux conditions. As listed in Table 1, ten bioactive (5-hydroxy-2,4-diphenyl-2H-benzo[e][1,3] oxazin-3(4H)-yl)(phenyl)methanone derivatives were synthesized. Thin-Layer Chromatography (TLC) controlled the reaction progress by make use of n-hexane-ethyl acetate (1:1). After the reaction was complete, the

resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered. Then dried, and recrystallized using chloroform or ethanol [31].

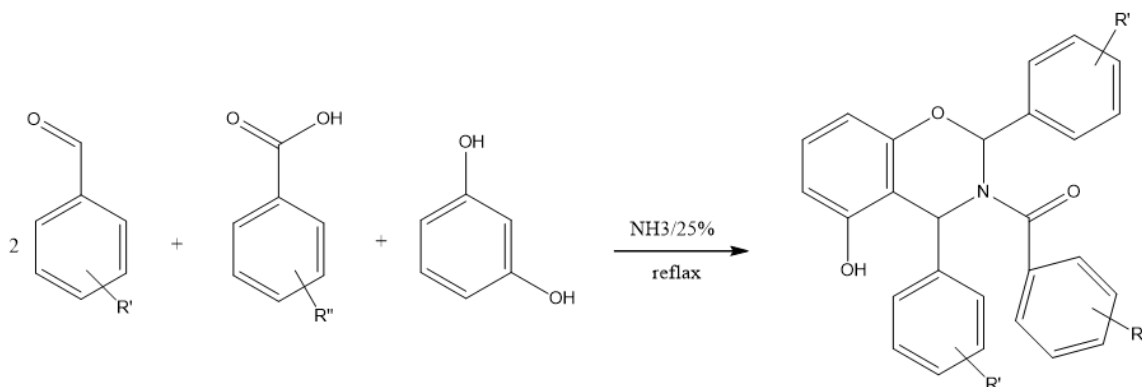
Antibacterial activities

The antibacterial activities of the synthesized products were determined on 2 gram-negative bacteria (*E. coli*, and *P. aeruginosa*) and 2 gram-positive bacteria (*S. aureus*, and *S. epidermidis*) through disc diffusion technique and the MIC (minimum inhibitory concentration) in-vitro. Ciprofloxacin was used as standard antibacterial agent and the bioassay results are provided in Tables 2 and 3. Based on Table 2, good inhibitory activity was exhibited by these compounds against *E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa* with MIC values of 6.25 – 50 µg/mL. Significant activity was revealed by compounds N₉ and N₁₉. No inhibitory activity was shown by N₇ compound against *E. coli* and *S. epidermidis* and N₃ compound against *E. coli*. In general, N₅, N₈, N₉ and N₁₇ products containing 4-N(CH₃)₂, 4-CH₃, 4-OH and 3-NO₂ substitutions in the benzaldehyde ring moiety represents more antibacterial activity (15 – 25 µg/mL) compared to Ciprofloxacin as a famous antimicrobial drug.

Molecular modeling

Method molecular docking

Molecular docking simulations were performed using Autodock Vina. The crystal structures of DNA gyrase B ATP-binding domain from *E. coli* were obtained from the Brookhaven Protein Data Bank <http://www.rcsb.org/pdb> PDB entry: 4DUH. LigPlot + 1.4 and Auto Dock tools 1.5.6/AutoDock 4.2 software packages were employed for docking flexible ligands into the rigid enzyme model for identification of hydrogen bonds and hydrophobic interactions between residues at the active site [32]. After removing all ligands, water molecules and ions from the PDB file and adding the polar hydrogens the partial atomic charge was calculated by adding the Kollman-united charge. The 3D structures of ligands were drawn in Chem Draw Ultra 8.0 and the structures were saved as pdb files after geometry optimization of them using the semi-empirical AM1 Hamiltonian [33]. For the preparation of ligands rotatable bonds and Gasteiger-Marsili charges were assigned to them. The protein and ligands structures were converted to pdbqt



Scheme 1. R' = H, 4-dimethylamino, 3-OH, 4-OMe, 4-Me, 4-OH, 3-NO₂; R'' = H, 4-OH.
One-pot Synthesis (5-hydroxy-2,4-diphenyl-2H-benzo[e][1,3]oxazin-3(4H)-yl) (phenyl) methanone derivatives.

Table 1. Synthesized bioactive (5-hydroxy-2,4-diphenyl-2H-benzo[e][1,3]oxazin-3(4H)-yl)(phenyl)methanone derivatives and their characteristics.

No	Product	R'	R''	Reaction time (min)	Yield (%)*
1	N ₁	H	H	50	75
2	N ₁₁	4-OH	H	43	79
3	N ₅	4-N(CH ₃) ₂	H	25	83
4	N ₇	3-OH	H	65	73
5	N ₈	4-OMe	H	65	77
6	N ₉	4-Me	H	27	96
7	N ₃	H	4-OH	55	91
8	N ₁₄	4-OH	4-OH	70	84
9	N ₁₇	3-NO ₂	4-OH	23	68
10	N ₁₉	4-Me	4-OH	60	43

format [34]. Exhaustiveness was set to 100 in docking procedure for each protein-ligand complex and the binding affinities of protein-targets were determined as can be seen in figure 1 (a, b). PLIP web server (Technical University of Dresden) is applied to investigate the formed complexes [35]. Reproducing the binding pose of co-crystallized ligand as a method for validation of docking protocols was used, which implied the aptness of the used set up for our docking study which could reproduce the crystal binding model and this was confirmed by the low energy score = -5.1 kcal/mol between the added ligand and docked pose. For DNA gyrase B ATP-binding domain from *E. coli* the grid size was set to 40 × 40 × 40 xyz points with grid spacing of 0.34 Å and grid center was designated at dimensions (x, y, z): 30.65, 4.82, 4.88. The genetic algorithm was used for optimal parameter settings and the number of runs was set to 30.

Molecular docking simulation

Docking studies were performed for all synthesized compounds in order to predict their affinity to bacterial protein DNA GyrB, from *E. coli*. The binding modes were predicted with a native water molecule located in the immediate vicinity of ligands at the protein-binding site. The least energy-binding mode for each ligand-protein complex (the top ranked solution) was inspected for potential interactions with the amino acids residues of the ATP-binding site, particularly taking into account the hydrogen bond interactions provided by the highly conserved water molecule. Analysis of the docking poses for N₉ and N₁₉ investigated 1,3-oxazin showed that they occupy the same area of DNA gyrase B ATP-binding pocket with good in silica interaction energy scores (figure 1 (a) and figure 2). The ligands were anchored to the receptor forming putative hydrogen bonds with the conserved water molecule. Among the ligands

Table 2. Antibacterial activity of synthesized compounds (inhibition zones, mm).

No	Compounds	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>S. epidermidis</i>	<i>E. Coli</i>	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>
1	N ₁	10	13	12	16
2	N ₃	15	10	ND	15
3	N ₅	19	18	23	20
4	N ₇	10	ND	ND	13
5	N ₈	16	18	25	18
6	N ₉	18	20	24	21
8	N ₁₁	13	17	10	15
7	N ₁₄	15	18	13	17
9	N ₁₇	19	20	23	19
10	N ₁₉	14	15	10	13
Ciprofloxacin*		28	27	30	29

Dimethyl Sulfoxide (DMSO) only, control for compounds and references.

*Reference compound; ND: not detected

Table 3. MIC values of synthesized compounds.

No	Compounds	MIC($\mu\text{g/mL}$)			
		<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>S. epidermidis</i>	<i>E. Coli</i>	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>
1	N ₁	400	200	100	50
2	N ₃	100	50	ND	12.5
3	N ₅	100	50	25	25
4	N ₇	200	ND	ND	25
5	N ₈	100	50	50	25
6	N ₉	100	25	12.5	6.25
8	N ₁₁	200	50	25	12.5
7	N ₁₄	100	25	25	50
9	N ₁₇	100	25	50	50
10	N ₁₉	50	50	12.5	6.25
Ciprofloxacin*		-	12.5	50	50

Dimethyl Sulfoxide (DMSO) only, control for compounds and references.

*Reference compound; ND: not detected

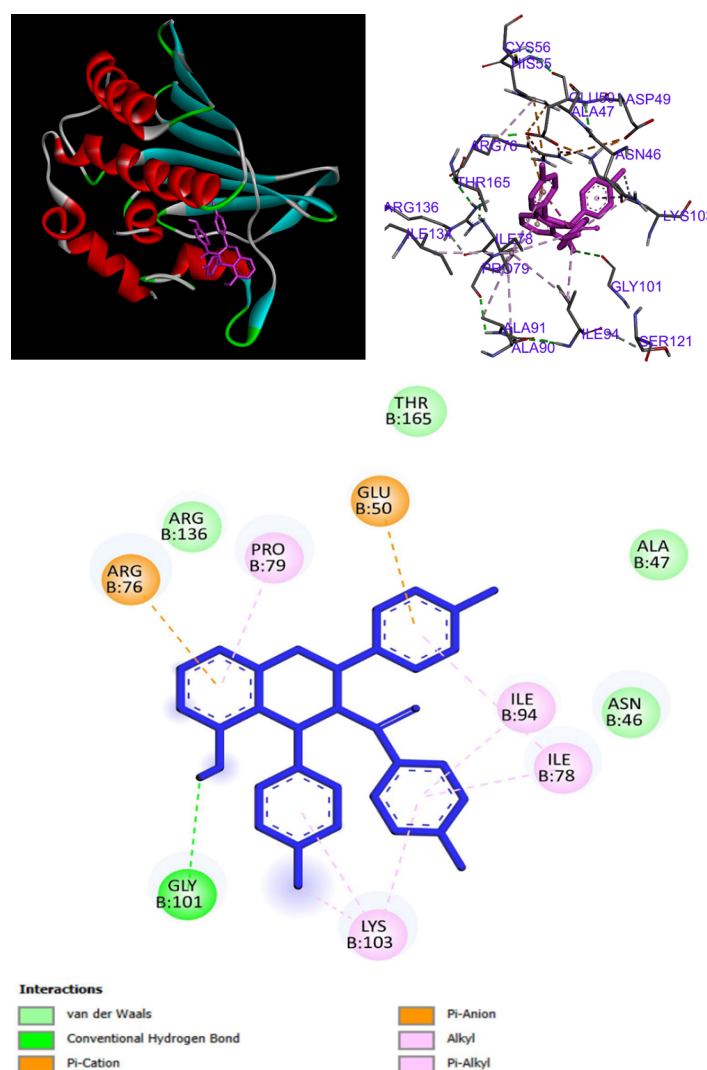


Figure 1. (a) The CS sample chemical composition. (b) 2D structure of binding residues of 4DUH interactions with N₁₉.

virtually screened to the DNA gyrase N₉ and N₁₉ emerged as lead compounds, in accordance with the experimentally MIC obtained values. The determined binding mode for compounds N₉ and N₁₉ is depicted within the ATP-binding site in Fig. 2. Compound N₁₉ has been reported to have the binding affinity (−4.79 kcal/mol) to the receptor via hydrogen bond interaction with GLY101; while, the Van der Waals interaction bond was with the residues ALA47, ARG136, and ASN46 (figure 1 (a, b)). Compound N₉ has been reported to have the binding affinity (−5.1 kcal/mol) to the receptor via Pli-cation bond interaction with ARG76 and GLU 50; while, the Van der Waals interaction was with the residues ARG136, THR165, ALA47 and ASN 46 (figure 2).

Experimental sections

General synthesis procedure of (5-hydroxy-2,4-diphenyl-2H-benzo[e][1,3]oxazin-3(4H)-yl)(phenyl)methanone derivatives

A combination of benzoic acid derivatives (1 mmol), aromatic aldehyde derivatives (2 mmol), resorcinol (1 mmol), and a quantity of ammonia 25% (5 mL) were heated under reflux for a proper time (Scheme 2). The reaction progress was controlled by Thin-Layer Chromatography (TLC) uti-

lizing n-hexane-ethyl acetate (1:1) as an eluent and cooling the reaction mixture was performed at room temperature after the competition. The rest of the solid was filtered, then drying and recrystallizing were consequently performed utilizing chloroform or ethanol [31].

The antibacterial activity of synthesized compounds was examined using two gram-negative bacteria of *E. coli* (ATCC 25922), *P. aeruginosa* (ATCC 13883) and two gram-positive bacteria of *S. aureus* (ATCC 6538) and *S. epidermidis* (ATCC 12228) through the disc diffusion technique [36] and Mueller–Hinton agar. Ciprofloxacin was utilized as the standard and normal saline was employed to prepare the inoculants with the turbidity of 0.5 McFarland standards. Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) was utilized to dissolve the examined compounds to prepare the stock solution. The inclusion of the solvent control indicated no antibacterial activity. The sterile swab was used to perform the culture and culturing micro tube suspension was performed for 24 h and then it was inoculated onto Mueller Hinton agar. Six mm diameter blank discs comprising 30 µg of these compounds [1–10] were located on Muller Hinton agar medium. Followed by incubation for 24 h at 37 °C, the growth inhibition zones were determined. The disks with 10 µg of dimethyl sulfoxide were utilized as the negative control. For

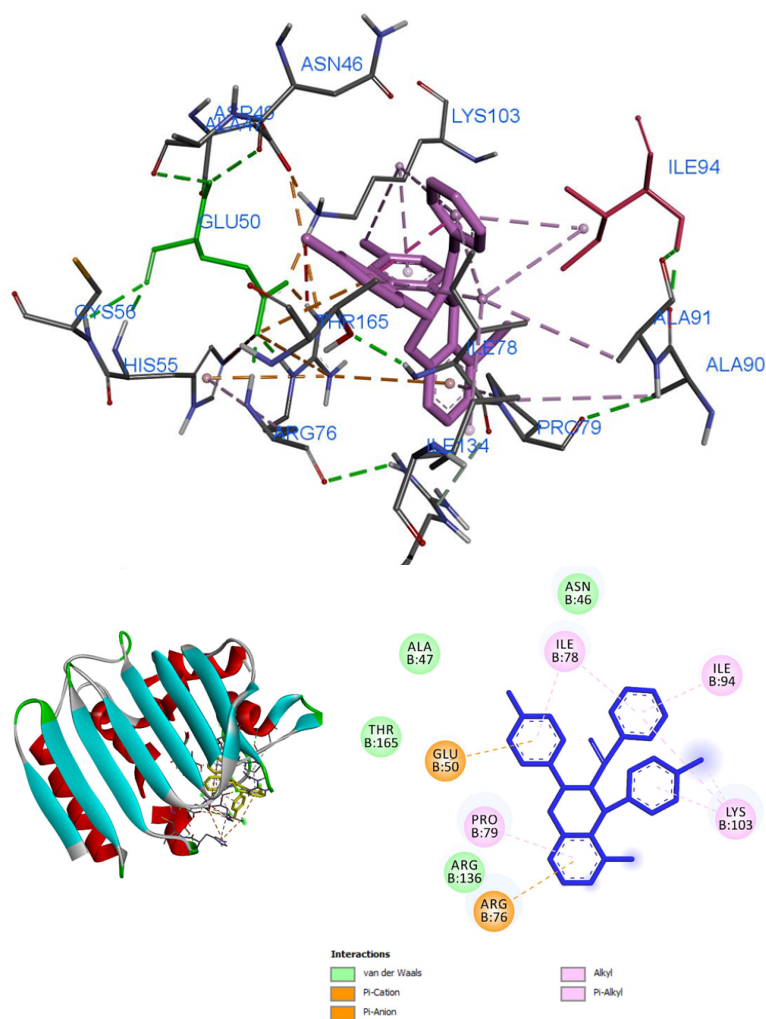


Figure 2. 3D, 2D structure of binding residues of 4DUH interactions with N₉.

each of the bacteria, a concentration was repeated 4 times, for which and the average inhibitory impacts are provided in Table 2.

The MIC (minimum inhibitory concentration) values were determined for synthesized compounds against four microorganisms utilizing disc diffusion technique [37] with the concentrations of 10, 20, 30, 50, . . . , 150 µg/mL for all bacteria per disc incubated for 24 h at 37 °C. The MIC values were determined as the minimum concentration of the compound to inhibit the growth of the examined bacteria. The findings are provided in Table 3.

Conclusion

In this study, (5-hydroxy-2,4-diphenyl-2H-benzo[e][1,3]oxazin-3(4H)-yl)(phenyl)methanone derivatives were synthesized through one-pot four components reaction between benzaldehyde and benzoic acid derivatives, resorcinol, and ammonia. The synthesized compounds showed excellent biological characteristics with green and simple work-up procedure. It was found that the compounds N₅, N₈, N₉ and N₁₇ had potent antibacterial activity against bacterial strains in comparison with the standard drug ciprofloxacin. Moderate to weak antibacterial activity was revealed by other compounds. Based on the relationships between the found antimicrobial property and the heterocyclic scaffold's structure, different biological activities were found. Possibly the heterocyclic ring's nature and the existence of various substituents led to a specific alteration in the activity. According to the results of the antimicrobial assessment, it can be deduced that the nitrogen atoms are included in the heterocyclic systems improving the antibacterial activity. Since the drugs synthesized in this project have been able to perform comparable to commercial antibiotics, in case of further development and obtaining acceptable results in in vivo and clinical tests, it can reduce the need to use conventional antibiotics in the future. Although the investigation of the resistance of microorganisms to this synthetic drug requires more studies.

Authors Contribution

All authors contributed to the study conception and design. Material preparation, data collection and analysis were performed by Narges Samoori, Naser foroughi Far and Alireza Khaje Amiri. The first draft of the manuscript was written by Narges Samoori and all authors commented on previous versions of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Availability of data and materials

The datasets generated (or analyzed) during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Conflict of interests

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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